

Claim 27 is currently amended and claim 30 is now cancelled. Independent claim 27 now defines a medical connector which includes a retrograde flow preventer positioned in the fluid flow path, said retrograde flow preventer being integrally formed on the compressible seal unlike Bonaldo '869 and Svensson, neither of which has a retrograde flow preventer on the seal. Neither Bonaldo's swabbable elastomeric stopper 60 nor Svensson's bacteria barriers function to prevent retrograde flow as will be discussed below. Claim 27 has also been amended to further define the flow preventer as projecting toward a male end of the male Luer connector and the preventer having a resilient portion with a normally closed fluid conducting perforation which opens at fluid delivery pressures exerted on an interior surface and which remains closed at patient vascular pressures exerted on an exterior surface of the resilient portion.


In the event that a fluid delivery bag empties so that no fluid delivery pressure from the bag is present before a patient care giver rotates the connector to the closed position, patient vascular pressure could cause fluid flow (retrograde flow) from the patient. This problem is solved by the connector of claim 27, as amended. Retrograde flow from the patient is may not be prevented by the Bonaldo swabbable stopper 60 if a male Luer on the end of the fluid delivery line is still attached to the connector. The Bonaldo swabbable stopper is not designed for prevention of retrograde flow. On the other hand, the Svensson device is intended to prevent reverse bacteria and fluid flow from a receptacle to a patient and does not prevent retrograde flow of fluid from the patient.

As amended, independent claim 27 and the claims dependent thereon are directed

to a novel and unobvious connector which includes structure to prevent retrograde flow. Such is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

It is believed that the application is now in form for allowance and early action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Norman Roth', is written over a horizontal line.

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